

2004 CEAA Technical Conference

Perspectives on Audit Value

Oct 14 - Oct 15, 2004

Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside
Vancouver, BC

Commission on Environmental Cooperation Initiatives on EMSs for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

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Caveat

- The following is my professional opinion about the issues being addressed by the CEC committee - draft will soon be available but final draft and the program itself will be next year

Commission on Environmental Cooperation: CEC

- The CEC - representatives from Canada, Mexico, and the USA
- Environmental Parallel Accord to NAFTA
- Puebla Declaration (2004) review and vision for CEC
- Partnerships of paramount importance

EMSs for SMEs

- Multi-author scoping paper being drafted
- Will define best strategies and tactics
- Not to reinvent the wheel - good reports available - good sites on Internet

What Roles for CEC?

- Relatively small international organization
- Not “close” to SMEs - municipalities and industrial associations have much more credibility.
- Can identify and build on strengths of the three partners.
- Puebla Declaration emphasized partnerships

Definition of SMEs

- Number of Employees
 - 5 or less micro
 - 6 - 25 (50) small
 - 26 (51) - 500 medium
- Not a helpful definition for this project
- Important characteristics are activities, industry sector, values of owners, region,

Categorizing SMEs

- Supplier to MNC with purchasing guidelines requiring ISO 14001 - no problem
- Member of Industry Association - enlist as partner to introduce EMSs
- No industry association - can one be formed?
- Independent - most difficult

Identifying and Removing Barriers

- Environmental accounting at macro (government) and micro (corporation) levels
- Financing - workshop with green banks
- Schools of Management/Business - getting sustainability into the curriculum
- Access to Affordable Advice - increased capacity in educating EMS advisors.
- EMS for governments - models

Specialty Audits and Follow Up

- Integrated approach to water, energy, GHGs, and waste
- Complements other initiatives
- Demonstrate savings to SMEs as costs go up: total costs = per unit price X # of units
- Incremental approach to introduction of EMSs

Calgary and Victoria

- Calgary an estimated 20,000 initial audits - only some aspects of energy
- Victoria - 500 initial audits/yr - energy only

What is Needed?

- Need enough well-qualified specialty auditors to do residences and small businesses in next 5 years.
- Need improved curriculum and capacity for training
- Need improved, uncomplicated program of certification

Models for Other SMEs

- SMEs as leaders and models - forgivable loan or a grant for those who agree to lead in their region and industry sector, after designing, implementing and operating EMS.

Partners

- CSA and eventually ISO
- CCHREI for curriculum and certification
- Cooperation of trades - change in practice
- Trained and bonded installers and retrofits
- Financing institutions - VanCity
- Canada Green Building Council

Partners

- Current Auditing Programs - PowerSmart, ATCO, EPCOR, others
 - Common protocol
 - High performance standards
- Installation, Services, and Repairs for technology and appliances

Conclusion

- Governments get enhanced environmental performance by SMEs
- SMEs reduce costs
- Politicians serve voters by helping to keep costs down as prices for energy, water, etc. rise
- Employment

Audit Value

- High level of value given the number of partners who could benefit and the potential value of the benefits.